

In the Official Action dated September 10, 2002, Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,011,925 (Hosoe), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,223,872 (Stiepel) and U.S. Patent No. 4,945,367 (Blackshear), and Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Stiepel '872 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,341,452 (Korling). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The present invention relates to a novel movable camera apparatus. In one aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 1, the movable camera apparatus comprises a camera unit, a pan head comprising a movable portion and a fixed portion; first and second support portions, provided on the movable portion of the pan head, that tilt rotatably support the camera unit at opposing sides of the camera unit. A first circuit board is disposed in the camera unit, and outputs an image signal from the camera unit. A second circuit board is disposed in the fixed portion of the pan head, for receiving an image signal. A drive unit is disposed in the first support portion and drives the camera unit in a tilt rotation direction, and a connecting member, disposed in the second support portion, electrically connects the first and second circuit boards together, and transmits an image signal from the first circuit board to the second circuit board .

The rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, and solely to advance prosecution of the application, Claims 6 to 17 have been cancelled and Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been amended herein more clearly to recite various novel features of the present

invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The Hosoe '925 patent relates to an image input apparatus having a pan head, and discloses an apparatus including a camera unit and a pan head having a control mechanism for at least two axes. However, Applicant submits that the Hosoe '925 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that the Hosoe '925 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of a drive unit disposed in a support portion that tilt rotatably supports a camera unit on a pan head, and a connecting member disposed in a second support portion that tilt rotatably supports the camera unit on a pan head, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Rather, Applicant submits the Hosoe '925 patent merely discloses an image input apparatus in which a camera unit 10 is rotatably supported by a pan head 20.

The Stiepel '872 patent relates to a surveillance device with eyeball assembly and pivotably mountable carriage assembly, and discloses a carriage assembly for mounting an eyeball assembly to a housing provided in an surveillance assembly and including a pivot and engagement parts which allow the carriage assembly to be pivoted into position; the Stiepel '872 patent also discloses a cable support assembly for an electrical cable connected between a camera lens assembly and another part of the surveillance assembly, in which the cable support assembly permits the cable to be wound

about the pivot access of the camera and lens assembly. However, Applicant submits that the Stiepel '872 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-described features of the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that the Stiepel '872 patent fails to disclose or suggest the features of a drive unit disposed in a support portion that tilt rotatably supports a camera unit on a pan head, and a connecting member disposed in a second support portion that tilt rotatably supports the camera unit on a pan head, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Rather, Applicant submits that the Stiepel '872 patent merely discloses a surveillance assembly in which an eye ball assembly 2 housing a lens and a camera assembly 4 is disposed within a housing 7, where the eyeball assembly is rotated, and further discloses that circuit boards of such assemblies are connected to each other by ribbon cable. Nor is the Stiepel '872 patent believed to add anything to the Hosoe '925 patent that would make obvious the claimed invention.

The Blackshear '367 patent relates to a surveillance camera system, and discloses a system including a video camera and a camera mount for panning movements about a vertical pan axis and tilting movement about a horizontal tilt axis. However, Applicant submits that the Blackshear '367 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits the Blackshear '367 patent fails to disclose or suggest the features of a drive unit disposed in a support portion that tilt rotatably supports a camera unit on a pan head, and a connecting member disposed in a second support portion that tilt rotatably supports the camera unit on a pan head, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Rather, the Blackshear '367 patent merely discloses a camera 30 attached to an attachment point 33 of a U-shaped fork 21, where the camera is tilt rotated by a planetary gear 28 and a half sum gear 29. Nor

is the Blackshear '367 patent believed to add anything to the Hosoe '925 patent and/or the Stiepel '872 patent that would make obvious the claimed invention.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claim 1 is allowable over the cited art.

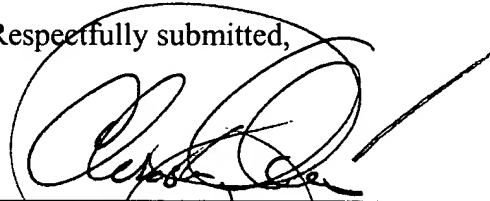
Claims 2 to 5, depend from Claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claims, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant requests that the present Amendment be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116. Applicant submits that the present amendments merely are minor or formal in nature, and reduce the number of issues for consideration. Applicant believes the present Amendment was necessitated by the outstanding Official Action, and submits that the present amendments were not previously made because Applicant believes the prior claims are allowable.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A movable camera apparatus comprising:
 - a camera unit;
 - a pan head comprising a movable portion and a fixed portion;
 - first and second support portions, provided on [erected from] said movable portion of said pan head, that tilt rotatably support [for supporting] said camera unit at opposing sides of said camera unit [from opposite sides thereof for tilt rotation];
 - a first circuit board, disposed in said camera unit, that outputs an image signal from said camera unit;
 - a second circuit board, disposed [on] in said fixed portion of said pan head, for receiving an image signal;
 - a drive unit, disposed in said first support portion, that drives said camera unit in a tilt rotation direction; and
 - a connecting member, disposed in said second support portion, that electrically connects [for connecting] said first and second circuit boards together, and transmits an image signal from said first circuit board to said second circuit board [said connecting member being a flexible flat cable, at least a part of which is disposed in an arcuate shape about a center line of tilt rotation of said camera unit, where the center of gravity of said camera unit is disposed near the center line of tilt rotation, and said connecting member is disposed on said second support portion; and
 - tilt rotation driving means provided on said first support portion].

2. (Amended) A movable camera apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said first circuit board is disposed in the [said] second support portion side of [in] the camera unit.

4. (Twice Amended) A movable camera apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said connecting member includes a flexible flat cable [is formed into a voluted shape about the center line of tilt rotation].

5. (Twice Amended) A movable camera apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a case member,

wherein said first and second support portions provide an opening portion in the outer side thereof, and said case member is mountable on said opening portion for covering said opening portion.

6. Cancelled.

7. Cancelled.

8. Cancelled.

9. Cancelled.

10. Cancelled.

11. Cancelled.

12. Cancelled.

13. Cancelled.

14. Cancelled.

15. Cancelled.

16. Cancelled.

17. Cancelled.

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